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PROGRAM News 7 STATION WJLA-TV
DATE November 19, 1986 11:00 P.M. CITY Washington, D.C.
SUBJECT CIA Campus Recruitment

J — RENEE POUSSAINT: Despite the fact that the CIA has been in the news lately because of its role in the Iran affair, that controversy has not slowed down the agency's recruiting on college campuses around the nation and around our area. While their presence at local schools has not caused any major disruptions, that has not been the case elsewhere.

News 7's Penny Daniels reports.

[Chants of "CIA off campus."]

J PENNY DANIELS: It could have been a scene straight out of another decade, but in fact it happened yesterday at the University of Massachusetts, where students protested CIA recruitment on campus. There were similar demonstrations in Colorado on Monday.

But today, peace and quiet welcomed CIA recruiters to George Mason University in Fairfax County, where students may resemble those of the '60s and '70s, but looks are deceiving.

Would any of you be opposed to working for the CIA?

[Negative responses]

KURT DESCHEEMAER: I basically think right-wing most of the time. And it would be a good job.

DANIELS: These students may be more typical of this decade's conservative trend on campus. Plus, many are home-grown Washingtonians. To them, government is a way of life, and the CIA is jsut another government agency.

JUDITH HOLLY: I just don't object to it. You know, I don't see why they shouldn't be here on campus and recruiting people.

DUANE EMBREY: If we protested against the CIA being on campus, wouldn't we have to protest any other, all other firms.

DANIELS: If the CIA's image on campus is generally better than ten years ago, that doesn't mean recruiting is smooth going. Other jobs offer higher pay with less risk. That's why the agency's ad campaign has become a lot more aggressive and a lot more direct.

But some things never change. The CIA still won't talk about how many students it recruits, even to the schools themselves. The recruiter here today refused to talk with us at all.

POUSSAINT: Washington area schools, such as Georgetown, George Washington and American Universities, as well as the University of Maryland, are considered the most fertile ground for CIA recruitment activity.